

Message Text

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11

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSC-05 SP-02 PRS-01

RSC-01 SS-15 USSS-00 SY-04 FAA-00 WRD-01 OC-05 /096 W

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O 230903Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 410

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS CAIRO 9480

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS OGEN

SUBJECT: HIJACKED VC-10: CAIRO PRESS ANNOUNCES

ABU IYAD IN TUNIS AND DENOUNCES INCIDENT

1. CAIRO NEWSPAPERS NOVEMBER 23 STATE ABU IYAD HAS DEPARTED CAIRO FOR TUNIS ON "SPECIAL EGYPTIAN PLANE." HE REPORTEDLY DEPARTED "AFTER MIDNIGHT." THERE IS NO MENTION OF OTHER PASSENGERS. AHRAH SAYS ABU IYAD WILL PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH HIJACKERS.

2. PRESS TREATMENT OF HIJACKING EXTREMELY CRITICAL. AKHBAR TALKS OF "CONSPIRACY" AND AHRAH BANNERS : "PLO ASSERTS DUBIOUS HANDS BEHIND INCIDENT."

3. FRONT PAGE STORIES ALL PAPERS HIGHLIGHTS STATEMENT BY PLO SPOKESMAN IN BEIRUT WHO REPORTEDLY SAID HIJACKING

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WAS DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO DEFAME PALESTINIAN PEOPLES

STRUGGLE AND REVOLUTION, AND THAT ALIEN HANDS ARE BEHIND THE INCIDENT.

4. ALL PAPERS ALSO FEATURE STATEMENT BY ARAFAT YESTERDAY IN DAMASCUS "DENOUNCING" HIJACKING AND AFFIRMING IT WAS ACT OF SABOTAGE IMPLEMENTED BY GROUP HAVING ABSOLUTELY NO CONNECTION WITH ARMED PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE.

5. EDITORIAL COMMENT IS SIMILARLY CRITICAL. AKHBAR POLITICAL EDITOR WRITES EGYPT WAS DETAINING "THOSE DEFENDANTS" TO AVOID INTERNATIONAL CRISES. GOE DID NOT PUT THEM IN PRISON NOR TREAT THEM AS PRISONERS, BUT PERMITTED RELATIVES TO VISIT AND TREATED THEM WELL. AMONG THOSE RELEASE IS DEMANDED, PAPER CONTINUES, ARE INDIVIDUALS WHOSE OPERATIONS HAD NO CONNECTION WITH COMMANDOS AND WHICH INCURRED ANGER OF WORLD PUBLIC OPINION. ARABS BELIEVE HIJACKING WILL NEITHER SERVE COMMANDO ACTION NOR HELP MILITANTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. INCIDENT IS "DETRIMENTAL OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE AND SERVES ONLY ISRAEL."

6. FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL BY AHRAH EDITOR-IN-CHIEF IS EVEN MORE CRITICAL. "IT IS TIME PLO ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCEPTS CONSEQUENCES OF THOSE REESPONSIBILITIES, PARTICULARLY REGARDING DISSIDENT ELEMENTS." AHRAH CALLS HIJACKING "BLACK MAIL" DIRECTED AGAINST ARABS AND DECLARED THAT STATEMENTS OF CONDEMNATION BY PLO "WILL NO LONGER MEET THE CASE." PLO MUST DETERMINE ITS POLICY AND ITS PLANS. "IT SHOULD NOT LEAVE THE CAUSE IN CUSTODY OF SCATTERED ELEMENTS."
EILTS

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